

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 DHA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /054 W

----- 116093

R 171241Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 818

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCON MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, CSCE, BU

SUBJECT: ATTACKS ON RFE

1. IN LINE WITH SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EE COUNTRIES, CURRENT BULGARIAN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST RFE AND RL IS HITTING ANOTHER CRESCENDO. PRESS IS REPRINTING SENSATIONALIZED STORIES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AS WELL AS PRODUCING ITS OWN LOCAL COMMENTARIES. CONTENT IS PREDICTABLE, WITH EMPHASIS THAT THESE RADIO BROADCASTS ARE OUT OF STEP WITH DETENTE AND CSCE.

2. THREE PART TELEVISION SERIES PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL PROGRAM OUTSIDE OF SERIES--ALL LOCALLY PRODUCED AND DEVOTED TO INIQUITIES OF RFE--HAVE APPEARED WITHIN PAST WEEK. FOURTH INSTALLMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR FEB 19 AND OTHERS COULD CONCEIVABLY FOLLOW. EACH PROGRAM LASTS ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. MAJOR EMPHASIS

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HAS BEEN ON RFE AS "FACADE" FOR CIA. CHARGE WAS MADE

THAT RECRUITS FOR RFE ARE FIRST SENT FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TRAINING IN ESPIONAGE BY CIA BEFORE THEY START WORK WITH THE RADIO STATION. CHARACTER OF EMPLOYEES IN "ANTI-BULGARIAN" SECTION OF RFE ALSO HAS BEEN ATTACKED, WITH PURPORTED CASE HISTORIES OF HEAD OF SECTION AND HIS ASSISTANT ALLEGING "HITLER-FASCIST" ACTIVITIES DURING WWII. CONCLUSION WAS DRAWN THAT THIS IS TYPE OF PERSON WHO COULD BE EXPECTED TO WORK FOR CIA. RFE IS ALSO CHARGED WITH FALSIFYING ITS SURVEYS SHOWING LISTENERSHIP IN EE COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: RFE BROADCASTS CONTINUE TO BE JAMMED IN BULGARIA, ALTHOUGH A TRULY DEDICATED LISTENER COULD PROBABLY UNDERSTAND A FAIR AMOUNT. QUESTION ARISES WHETHER SENSATIONAL ATTACKS REALLY DETER LISTENING OR IF THEY PIQUE INTEREST. HOWEVER, CAMPAIGN IS PROBABLY DIRECTED AS MUCH TOWARD BUILDING BACK-FIRE AGAINST WESTERN INITIATIVES ON CSCE AS TOWARD INFLUENCING BULGARIAN POPULATION AGAINST RFE. FELDMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, ALLEGATIONS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS, RADIO BROADCASTING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SOFIA00335  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760058-1075  
**From:** SOFIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760243/aaaablgu.tel  
**Line Count:** 81  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 FEB 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ATTACKS ON RFE  
**TAGS:** PROP, BU, RFE, CSCE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006